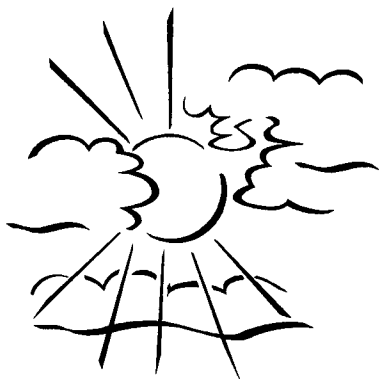


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Articles in Today's Clips

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

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Published May 31, 2006

Hollands to have separate juries

Ricky's parents' trial set for Sept. 11, to stay in Ingham Co.

By Kevin Grasha
Lansing State Journal

Reporters from five media outlets in court Tuesday for a status conference - a typically mundane event in the legal process - signaled the approach of the year's biggest trial.

Tim and Lisa Holland are scheduled to be tried Sept. 11 before different juries on charges they killed their 7-year-old adopted son, Ricky, a judge ruled.

"At this point, we're looking at separate juries, one trial," Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield said at Tuesday's hearing, noting she still might reconsider. A trial had been tentatively scheduled for Sept. 25.

Also at Tuesday's hearing, Manderfield ruled the Hollands' trial will stay in Ingham County - for now. Attorneys for both Hollands asked the judge to move the trial.

"It will be difficult, if not impossible, for these two defendants to get a fair trial in Ingham County," said Andrew Abood, an attorney for Lisa Holland.

The community's disdain for both defendants was fueled by evidence released in the media, he said.

But Manderfield said a decision about where to hold the trial won't be made until jury selection begins. She said potential jurors must show only that they have not formed opinions about the case.

"Nobody's convinced we're going to find an impartial jury here," said Mike Nichols, who also represents Lisa Holland, "but we're going to

try."

Tim Holland, 37, and his wife, Lisa, 33, face charges of open murder and first-degree child abuse. They have accused each other of killing Ricky, who was reported missing last summer.

On the child abuse charges, Assistant Prosecutor Mike Ferency said he intends to pursue theories of both physical and mental abuse. Two other charges - obstruction of justice and filing a false police report - were dismissed Tuesday.

Ferency said the obstruction of justice charges remain under investigation, and he indicated others could be prosecuted. He would not comment further or say if there are any suspects.

Tim Holland's attorney, Frank Reynolds, had asked that the Hollands be tried as early as August, partly to avoid the possibility of information being released in the media.

"Anything that can expedite this case and get it before a jury, I'm in favor of," he said after Tuesday's hearing.

If the Hollands stand trial together, one jury would have to leave the courtroom whenever prosecutors presented evidence admissible against only one defendant.

Prosecutors have a list of 70 to 80 witnesses they could call, Ferency said.

He said he expects to call only about two dozen of them.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or kgrasha@lsj.com.

What's next

- Attorneys for Tim and Lisa Holland are expected back in Ingham County

Circuit Court July 7 to argue various motions. The case is tentatively scheduled

to go to trial Sept. 11

MICHIGAN

More could face charges in boy's death

Prosecutor says others gave help to boy's parents

May 31, 2006

BY JACK KRESNAK
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

LANSING -- An Ingham County prosecutor hinted Tuesday that more people could be charged in connection with the death last summer of 7-year-old Ricky Holland, whose body was found in January.

The statement from Ingham County Assistant Prosecutor Mike Ferency came Tuesday during a pretrial hearing for Ricky's parents, Tim and Lisa Holland of Leroy Township near Williamston.

At the hearing, Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield granted requests from Ferency and the Hollands' attorneys to drop two of the five criminal counts on which the couple was bound over April 11 for trial by 55th District Judge Rosemarie Aquilina in Mason.

The dropped charges include filing a false police report and obstruction of justice. Manderfield also combined two counts of first-degree child abuse into one count. Open murder charges remain against each of the Hollands.

Aquilina had ordered the Hollands to stand trial for obstruction of justice for allegedly misleading authorities by claiming the boy had run away on July 2. Aquilina reasoned that the husband and wife conspired to concoct a false story about their son's disappearance to cover up his killing.

Ricky, a former foster child, was the oldest of the Hollands' five children. The couple adopted him in Jackson County in 2002. The family moved to Ingham County in 2005 after Lisa Holland removed the boy from school in a dispute over suspicions that he was being mistreated.

The Hollands never enrolled Ricky in school in Ingham County. On Jan. 27, Tim Holland led investigators to the boy's body, concealed in a plastic bag in a wetland area south of Danville, claiming his wife had killed Ricky. She denies that and blames her husband. Ferency asked Manderfield to dismiss the filing a false police report charge because it was a minor charge and a waste of the court's time to prosecute. In asking Manderfield to dismiss the obstruction of justice charge, Ferency said it was "still under investigation" and "other people may be charged as aiders and abettors of Mr. and Mrs. Holland."

Asked after the hearing to elaborate, Ferency declined.

In response to other motions, Manderfield denied defense attorney requests to move the trial outside Ingham County.

Frank Reynolds, an attorney for Tim Holland, said traditionally judges agree to change the trial venue only after failing to seat an impartial jury. But, Reynolds said, the Holland case was unique not only because of the high level of publicity, but also because so many people had helped police search for the missing boy.

Reynolds and Andrew Abood, an attorney for Lisa Holland, argued that the Hollands should be given separate trials because they have antagonistic defenses -- that is, each blames the other for Ricky's death -- and evidence against one is not necessarily allowable as evidence against the other.

Manderfield, however, ruled that the two will be tried at the same time before separate juries. She said she might change her mind depending on how many witnesses testify in a trial that attorneys estimate could run from three to 10 weeks.

Manderfield also moved up the date of the trial from Sept. 25 to Sept. 11.

Contact JACK KRESNAK at 313-223-4544 or jkresnak@freepress.com.

Abuse reporting policy eases strain on child

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

By Shantell M. Kirkendoll

skirkendoll@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6366

FLINT - It's tough for a child to talk about neglect by a parent or sexual abuse by a family member or day care worker.

But an agreement signed Tuesday by police, state officials, hospitals and child advocates means a child will have to talk about abuse at only one time and in one place.

"The goal is to reduce the trauma to children during the process," said Deborah Pascoe, executive director of the Child Advocacy Center, where interviews will take place.

More than 400 interviews were conducted last year at CAC, a sprawling home filled with stuffed animals, sofas and hidden cameras that record the information.

Genesee County has the second-highest number of confirmed cases of child sexual and severe physical abuse in Michigan. It's a small part of a devastating problem, said Pascoe, considering that only one in 10 abuse cases is reported to authorities.

The agreement is a special way of investigating and prosecuting child abuse that recognizes children have different needs than adults.

In the past, abuse investigations would involve questioning a child up to 15 times, often by untrained people in such intimidating environments as a police station or principal's office.

"If a child cries, then I've failed," said Dr. Edwin H. Gullekson, vice president of medical affairs and medical director of the Child Evaluation Center, who physically examines children believed to have suffered sexual abuse.

McLaren Regional Medical Center recently assigned a second physician, Dr. Mischa Pollard, to the evaluation center.

The Child Advocacy Center's "Stop the Hurt Campaign" has inspired other changes at agencies that deal with children.

The Department of Health Services, which manages family welfare cases, will create a new department in mid-June devoted to child abuse and neglect. Mott Children's Health

Center has added staff, and area hospitals have agreed to train workers on all shifts about how to intervene when an abused child comes to the emergency room.

Police and child welfare workers meet before the child is interviewed and coordinate questions. The collaboration has expedited child abuse investigations, Pascoe said.

QUICK TAKE

One place, one time

☐ A new agreement among law enforcement, hospitals and child advocates aims to ensure that children will have to be interviewed only once about sexual or severe physical abuse.

Judge delays sentence for teacher's young affair

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

By TOM GILCHRIST
BAY CITY TIMES WRITER

CARO - A 28-year-old teacher has lost her job, her marriage and - possibly - her career for her sexual encounters with a 16-year-old male student last summer.

But Kristen A. Margrif avoided jail or prison - for now - when a Tuscola County judge delayed her sentence for one year on Tuesday.

If the former Kingston Community School District English teacher obeys the rules of her probation for the next 12 months, she also could avoid having felonies on her record.

At that point, however, she would stand convicted of three counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, high-court misdemeanors carrying a maximum penalty of two years in prison.

If all goes well for Margrif during the year, she will begin five years of probation on the misdemeanors, said Prosecutor Mark E. Reese.

Margrif will have to register as a sex offender for 25 years, stay 1,000 feet away from schools and day care facilities and have no contact with people younger than 17 unless a probation officer approves, he said.

And Margrif "won't be able to teach in Michigan with those convictions," Reese added.

"It's my understanding (state officials) will take her teaching certificate away once those criminal convictions enter on the record," Reese said.

As of press time, The Times could not confirm that fact with the state Department of Education.

Kingston school-district officials said that under an agreement with the district, Margrif resigned from the district several months ago on the same day she pleaded no contest to three counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

A plea of no contest is not an admission of guilt, but is treated as such for the purpose of sentencing a defendant.

The lesser crimes of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct will enter on her record if she successfully completes one year on probation.

Margrif already has suffered due to the criminal case against her, according to her lawyer, Flint Township attorney M. Allen Robb.

"This lady's financial situation ... is in very dire straits," Robb told Tuscola County Circuit Judge Patrick R. Joslyn on Tuesday.

Margrif earns \$6 an hour at a wholesale food outlet and delivers newspapers once each week, Robb said.

"She has gone through a divorce as a result of this (case) and she does recognize the mistakes she has made, and steps have been taken to address those issues," Robb said.

Margrif has undergone counseling and is "devoutly religious," Robb told the court. Both Robb and Margrif declined comment after Tuesday's sentencing hearing.

The mother of the boy molested by Margrif said she also has seen a counselor and received medication due to stress related to Margrif assaulting her son.

"It's just been an ongoing thing, dealing with this, and my family and I are trying to pick up the pieces from what happened, and trying to move on," the boy's mother said.

The stepfather of the boy molested by Margrif wants to see the former teacher spend some time in jail.

"She was supposed to be out on a (personal recognizance) bond where she wasn't supposed to have any contact with (the boy), but other people have seen her with him" during the past few weeks, the stepfather said.

The mother said she removed her son, along with her 13-year-old daughter, from Kingston's schools before the start of the school year late last summer.

Police allege Margrif molested the 16-year-old boy - who had been one of her students - eight times within one month beginning in late June of last year.

Reene said he's not aware of Margrif contacting the teenager within the past few weeks, but said he knows Margrif contacted the boy - in violation of her bond - after Reene filed charges against her in August 2005.

If Margrif contacts the victim from now on, however, the consequences could be more serious, according to the prosecutor.

"It's one thing to violate a bond condition, but it's another thing to violate a term of your probation," Reene said.

- Tom Gilchrist covers regional news for The Times. He can be reached at 1-800-875-4444, ext. 649 or by e-mail at: tgilchrist@bc-times.com.

Former teacher sentenced

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

DARRYL Q. TUCKER
THE SAGINAW NEWS

CARO -- A judge has barred a former Kingston High School English teacher from the classroom as part of her punishment for having sexual contact with an eighth-grader.

Kristen Margrif, 27, of Mayville avoided incarceration when Tuscola County Circuit Judge Patrick R. Joslyn ordered a one-year delayed sentence Tuesday on three felony counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a student.

Joslyn told Margrif that if she stays out of trouble for a year, prosecutors will reduce the charges to three counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, which are misdemeanors.

If all goes well for Margrif during the year, she will begin five years of probation on the misdemeanors, said Prosecutor Mark E. Reese.

Margrif will have to register as a sex offender for 25 years, stay 1,000 feet away from schools and day care facilities and have no contact with people younger than 17 unless a probation officer approves, he said.

"I hope (Margrif's sentence) will sway someone" from having sexual contact with students, Reese said. "Why risk your professional career?"

Second-degree criminal sexual conduct involves serious variations of touching someone younger than 13, or someone between 13 and 16 if living in the same house as the offender or if the offender has a position of authority.

Fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct involves touching or groping a victim 13 to 15 when the offender is at least 5 years older than the victim and uses force.

Margrif resigned from her teaching job March 19, the same day she pleaded no contest. The plea means a defendant does not contest prosecutor's evidence and is willing to accept punishment.

Alleged molester ends parental rights

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

The Grand Rapids Press

ALLEGAN -- An area man accused of molesting several children in the home where he lived with his wife and four children agreed Tuesday to voluntarily terminate his parental rights.

James Rupert, 26, is charged with multiple counts of sexual assault for abuse prosecutors allege occurred for more than three years.

His father, Ronald Rupert, who also lived in the home, pleaded guilty May 12 to sexual assault charges.

Police said seven children from two families lived in the Allegan area home, where investigators discovered 20,000 images of child pornography. Rupert's wife has a June hearing where prosecutors will seek to terminate her parental rights.

A third man, Isaac Kelly, 73, is the great-grandfather of children in the other family and also is charged with child sexually abusive activity and using a computer to commit a crime.

Boy testifies in sexual assault case

Trace Christenson
The Battle Creek Enquirer

A 12-year-old Homer boy testified Tuesday that his neighbor fondled him several times earlier this year.

The neighbor, Ian J. Gallagher, 24, is an employee of the Calhoun County Juvenile Home and a former Homer police officer.

The boy told Calhoun County District Judge Marvin Ratner that he spent nights with Gallagher, who several times fondled him on the outside of his pants.

The boy said he and Gallagher slept in the same bed several times. The Enquirer does not identify victims of sexual assault.

Gallagher is charged with three counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, accosting a child for immoral purposes, distributing obscene material and using a computer to distribute obscene material.

The preliminary examination to determine if the case will be sent to Circuit Court for trial was adjourned before testimony was complete and a new date was not immediately set.

The boy, being held in the juvenile home and charged in March with domestic violence against his sister, testified while shackled and handcuffed.

During questioning by Assistant Prosecutor Michelle Richardson, he said he began periodically staying with Gallagher — and another couple who shared the house — in December because of problems he was having at home.

The other couple moved out shortly after Christmas but the boy said he continued staying with Gallagher, who designated a bedroom for the boy and gave him gifts, including a bike and clothes.

The crimes allegedly occurred in January and February. The boy said the first time Gallagher touched him was when they were on the couch watching a movie. The boy said Gallagher began rubbing his genitals through his pants.

"He moved his hand up and down and asked me, 'Are you hard?'"

"I said stop, and he did that," the boy said.

The boy testified about another similar incident and also that Gallagher once reached

inside his pants and fondled the boy over his underwear.

"He said he didn't mean to," the boy said. "He said, 'I'm sorry' and stopped."

When Richardson asked the boy if Gallagher ever asked to be touched, the youth began to cry and said, "I don't want to do this," and asked for a break, and the hearing was adjourned.

Charles Baker, who lived with his fiancé in the home for a short time with Gallagher, said he once saw Gallagher sleeping under the covers in his bed one morning and the boy was on the covers on the bed watching television.

Baker, who, like Gallagher, works at the juvenile home, said during questioning by Defense Attorney Joe Eldred that he never considered that anything inappropriate was happening between Gallagher and the boy.

Eldred argued during pretrial motions that the boy has made allegations of sexual assault against other people, a suggestion Richardson denied.

After the hearing adjourned, Eldred said Gallagher has denied having any sexual contact with the boy.

Instead, Eldred said, he believes the boy was upset that he couldn't spend time with Gallagher after the boy was placed in the juvenile home and, after seeing Gallagher come home with two women, "he was mad because he was spending time with other people."

Gallagher, who has been placed on unpaid administrative leave at the juvenile home, remains in the county jail on \$250,000 bond.

Trace Christenson covers crime and courts. He can be reached at 966-0685 or tchrist@battlecr.gannett.com.

Originally published May 31, 2006

Couple to stay in Texas

Grand Rapids Press

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

HOLLAND -- A judge denied a request this morning to have a Holland couple returned to Michigan after they were transported to Texas without a scheduled extradition hearing. Esther and Cipriano Gonzales IV were released May 23 from the Ottawa County Jail to a prisoner transport company hired to bring them to Texas to face murder charges. District Judge Brad Knoll said, by statute, he didn't have the authority to order them back. "Obviously, they shouldn't have been sent back to Texas before a habeas corpus hearing," he said. The couple is accused in the March 11 death of their 2-month-old daughter, eight days after they moved from Holland to San Marcos, Texas.

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Mackinac Conference

Workers face more health care cuts Most of the southeast Michigan companies surveyed will reduce or eliminate coverage.

Joel J. Smith / The Detroit News

- *The majority of businesses in southeast Michigan expects to scale back health care benefits for employees, while more than one-quarter are considering eliminating employee health coverage, according to a survey.*

The troubling news for Metro Detroit workers was among the key findings of a survey of executives from 203 local companies by Troy-based John Bailey & Associates. The results will be released today at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Business Leadership Conference on Mackinac Island.

The study shows 61 percent of companies are considering reductions in future health care benefits for employees while another 27 percent may eliminate medical insurance for workers.

Three-quarters of the business leaders surveyed also said smokers should pay more for insurance premiums, while nearly as many said individuals who lead a healthy lifestyle should get cost advantages.

Overall, 86 percent of the business owners said employees can expect to pay a larger portion of health care premiums.

Mike Lefich, owner of Excellis Computer Services in Oak Park, participated in the survey. His business has six full-time staffers and a number of contract workers.

Just three years ago, he offered all his employees fully paid family medical, dental and vision insurance. But he doesn't anymore.

"I pay for the individual employee's policy, but if they have a wife or family, they now have to pay for those themselves," Lefich said.

"A monthly insurance premium for a family of four now costs \$1,200. We just couldn't afford it. We just don't have a choice anymore."

Although he hasn't pushed it yet, Lefich said workers who smoke should pay more for health insurance.

"I just don't think the employer should have to carry the entire health burden for someone who smokes," he said. "We can't stop someone getting hit by a bus, but we can do something about an unhealthy lifestyle."

About 75 percent of those companies interviewed in the survey had from a few to 100 workers, 15 percent from 100 to 500 employees and 8 percent more than 500. The companies were split equally between Oakland and Wayne counties, with 10 percent from Macomb.

Not all employers in the survey want to leave their workers without medical insurance. But with medical premiums increasing about 10 percent a year -- 73 percent since 2000 -- half of them believe others need to help pay for the insurance. They suggest a firm pay 48 percent, workers 27 percent and the government another 25 percent.

Dr. Catherine G. McLaughlin, a health care economist at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health for 23 years, said the issue of rising health care costs isn't new.

"A lot of businesses are finding that health care costs are going up and up and up," McLaughlin said. "At the same time, workers aren't willing to face wage decreases, cuts in holiday or vacation time or other benefits. Employers now are saying they just can't handle it anymore.

"Some companies are just finding it easier to eliminate all health care benefits."

McLaughlin said she's not surprised that 75 percent of company owners want to charge extra to employees who smoke. She was recently part of a 13-member federal commission that interviewed thousands of individuals about public health issues.

She said the vast majority felt medical insurance premium rates should be based on an individual's ability to pay.

"A notable amount, however, thought people should pay by their lifestyle like smoking, drinking or being overweight," she said. "We heard loud and clear that individuals have to take more responsibility for their own health."

Michael F. Cannon, director of health policy studies at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., said the health care crisis will continue until rising costs are brought under control.

He blames a portion of it on workers taking advantage of the health care system at the expense of their employers.

"When you have an employer providing health insurance to the workers, you create a tragedy where the workers are spending someone else's money," Cannon said. "These employees end up wanting more and more, and the health care benefit costs go up and up.

"The only answer is for employers to cut back. If workers are paying for more of their health care directly as opposed through insurance, these workers are going to be much more interested in eliminating wasteful spending."

He is in favor of transferring costs to those in higher-risk categories.

"That's how insurance is supposed to work," Cannon said.

You can reach Joel J. Smith at (313) 222-2556 or jsmith@detnews.com.

By the numbers

A survey of business executives in southeast Michigan showed:

61% may reduce employee health benefits

27% may cut health benefits

76% believe smokers should pay more

86% of workers likely to pay more for benefits

Source: John Bailey & Associate

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Mackinac Conference

Cutting health costs key to attracting jobs Survey finds more businesses will shift burden to workers

Managing health care costs is a key topic for those coming to Mackinac Island this week for the Detroit Regional Chamber's annual conference. Good thing. The level of desperation of employers over soaring health insurance premiums is rapidly rising.

A survey of conference participants prepared by John Bailey & Associates finds that 61 percent are considering reducing health care benefits to employees to cut costs, and 27 percent are thinking about eliminating the benefits.

Most also support cracking down on employees who smoke, overeat or make other unhealthy lifestyle choices.

All employees will almost certainly be paying a greater share of the health insurance premium -- 86 percent of employers attending the conference plan to shift more of the burden to their workers.

The findings should be a strong incentive for the business and political sectors to commit to finding an answer to the rising cost of health care.

Employers have been the primary provider of health insurance for most Michigan workers for decades.

But now the burden is growing too great.

Left unchecked, the rising costs will mean more state residents will be cut off from employer-provided health insurance, and the state will be forced to pick up the cost of providing them with health care.

In Metro Detroit, key health care providers, insurance companies and large employers have teamed together in the Save Lives, Save Dollars program to look for ways to reduce treatment costs, while improving care.

The program will monitor hospitals to ensure they are employing the best available practices for treating patients and reducing the risks of expensive complications.

It will also involve insurance companies, employers and employees in keeping costs in check by encouraging preventative medicine, early detection and comparative shopping for medical services.

When the program was put in place at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital, patient spending on health care dropped \$3 million a year.

Replicated at hospitals statewide, the savings achieved just by paying attention to the details of treatment and committing to preventative care are enormous.

And so are the benefits to the business outlook.

If Michigan can become an innovator in cutting health care costs while still delivering top-rate care, it will become much more attractive for job creators looking for a place to do business.

As much as improving education and cutting the tax burden, reducing health care costs should be seen as an essential ingredient in creating a more dynamic economic climate.

The Detroit News

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Editorial Rebuttal

Key to better nursing home safety is funding

I would like to commend The Detroit News for shedding light on the challenges that face many Michigan long-term care facilities ("State nursing homes at risk?" May 15).

Not all Michigan nursing facilities are fully equipped with sprinklers. This is a direct consequence of a historically underfunded profession. Bottom line: Medicaid funds 70 percent of nursing facility residents, but when Medicaid underfunds physical plant expenses, it discourages owners from investing in sprinklers, air conditioning or other improvements in physical plant and safety.

Although sprinklers are important, a well-trained staff prepared for emergencies is the key to saving lives. As such, we'd like to praise the staff of the facilities that recently experienced fires for its brave efforts to evacuate residents so expeditiously.

The real issue here is funding. On average, the cost to retrofit an existing nursing facility with a sprinkler system is about \$7 per square foot. The average 100-bed facility is 40,000 square feet, which means the average nursing facility would need to divert between \$250,000 and \$350,000 away from direct patient care to cover the cost. Many facilities simply cannot afford to make this investment without some kind of assistance.

Three congressmen -- Rep. Joe Schwarz, R-Battle Creek; Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Menominee; and Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia -- are the only members of the Michigan delegation to co-sponsor the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act. This important legislation -- although not perfect -- would provide low-interest loans and some grants for facilities to install automatic fire sprinkler systems.

Our organization urges the rest of our delegation to follow suit, supporting Michigan's long-term care facilities with the financial support we need to help protect residents.

Reginald Carter

President and CEO

Health Care Association

of Michigan

Lansing

Husband gets 18-plus years in assault

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

By Lynn Turner

lturner@kalamazoogazette.com 388-8564

Even after being bludgeoned by a baseball bat and having her throat slit, Shailing Cruz says she hurts more over the anguish inflicted on her children, who saw her being beaten.

"He could have done whatever he wanted to do to me, but he didn't have to do it in front of my kids," Cruz said Tuesday before her husband, Kendrick Bernard Lee, was sentenced to more than 18 years in prison for the incident last August.

"My son is just so sad," she said. "He has anger problems. He saw his dad hit his mom with a baseball bat.

"He hit me more than 46 times with a bat. He slit my throat from side to side and didn't care that my babies were crying."

Lee started swinging the bat at Cruz as she sat on the couch with her youngest daughter, who is 5, according to testimony taken during his preliminary examination in December. Lee pushed Cruz away from the girl during the beating. Her son, 7, screamed at his father to stop. Cruz's oldest daughter, now 10, got between her mother and step-father at one point and was hit on the wrist and thigh with the bat.

Cruz had various broken bones and lacerations that required six surgeries and an 11-day stay in the hospital.

"I don't hate you, because you are the father of my kids," she told Lee at his sentencing Tuesday. "But this is so hard."

Lee, who was convicted of assault with intent to commit murder, didn't deny hitting Cruz, but said he never intended to kill her.

"If I wanted to, you wouldn't be here," he told Cruz before being sentenced. "All the lies you told will come back."

Kalamazoo County Circuit Judge William G. Schma called Lee selfish and a coward with an "insane, murderous rage he cannot control." The judge said the photographs he saw of Cruz's injuries were among the worst he has seen in nearly 20 years on the bench.

"And you try to lay guilt at her doorstep," Schma told Lee. "That is just reprehensible."

Schma sentenced Lee to 18 years, nine months, to 50 years in prison.

After Lee was led out of the courtroom, Cruz breathed a sigh of relief.

``It's over," she said. ``I'm OK.

``I just want my kids to be better."

Husband charged with murder

Police say man suspected his wife was having affair

PUBLISHED: May 31, 2006

By Gordon Wlcizynski
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

A New Haven man fatally shot his wife because he believed she was involved with another man, police said.

Robert Nathan Rogan, 56, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment Tuesday afternoon before 42-2 District Judge Paul A. Cassidy. He was charged with both first- and second-degree murder and felony firearm in the death of his wife, Erdelia Rogan, who was 58.

Rogan is being held in the Macomb County Jail without bond.

New Haven Detective Sgt. Dale Labombard said Rogan and his wife got into an argument about an extramarital affair at 7 a.m. Monday. Labombard said they argued and he grabbed his 12-gauge shotgun and fired twice.

"She was struck in the chest and face and died at the house on Havenridge Road," Labombard said.

Rogan then dialed 911 and requested an ambulance. He remained at the home until New Haven police arrived.

Robert Rogan's son, David, said his mom was well-respected in New Haven. Neighbors said everyone knew Erdelia Rogan.

A next-door neighbor who wouldn't give his name said Mrs. Rogan was a very sweet lady whom everyone respected. He called her the nicest lady in New Haven.

"It's hard for anyone to answer questions about her at a time like this," said the neighbor. "The family is grieving because they just lost someone who is so close and dear to them."

Police said Rogan expressed no sorrow or remorse when he was

arrested Monday. Mrs. Rogan worked as an aide at a New Haven nursing home owned by police Chief William C. Moore.

Robert Rogan has no prior criminal record.

Family members told police he was becoming more and more suspicious of his wife in recent weeks. Police said they do not believe she was having an affair.

The killing is the second in New Haven, a town of 6,000 residents, in three years. James Mattise used a "rip tie" to commit suicide and his wife, Judith Mattise, 55, was never found. Police believe she was killed. The couple were married nearly 34 years.

Alleged sex abuse slaying motive

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

By Paul Janczewski

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James A. Rozier II told police he stabbed his lover to death because he believed the man had sexually molested his child.

"He cross(ed) the line," Rozier wrote in a letter to a friend police found on him when he was arrested. "He molested (my son) ... so I did what a dad would do."

Rozier, 22, of Grand Blanc is charged with first-degree murder, felony murder and armed robbery in the May 17 slaying of Marty J. Warren of Grand Blanc Township.

Grand Blanc Township Capt. Jude Rariden, who took a statement from Rozier, said the suspect was intense as he spoke of the murder of Warren.

Rariden said at the end of his interview, Rozier told him, "Do you know what I regret? Nothing."

That and other testimony was offered during a preliminary examination Tuesday before Central District Judge Christopher R. Odette.

The hearing will conclude June 13 when a pathologist is expected to testify that Warren, 49, received more than three dozen stab wounds in his upper neck, head and face area.

Police testified that Warren was found in a pool of blood in the basement of his home on E. Reid Road.

A woman who was also living there and other tips led police to Rozier, who also stayed with Warren.

Attorney Jeffrey E. Clothier, who is representing Rozier, said he will later send his client to the Center for Forensic Psychiatry near Ann Arbor to determine if he can be held criminally responsible for his actions.

During the hearing, Rozier, in handcuffs and leg restraints, burst into occasional sobs, tucking his head low and rocking back and forth.

Another man, Douglas Thomas, testified that Rozier told him twice that he killed Warren.

Thomas also said that Rozier believed Warren had molested his son. Rozier allegedly told Thomas that Warren had his son for about an hour one day, and later his son told of being sexually molested.

Police have notified state Protective Services of the allegation and are investigating.

Under questioning from Clothier, Rariden acknowledged that Warren has a prior criminal sexual conduct conviction involving a minor, and that Warren became involved with Rozier when Rozier was a minor.

Rariden also testified that Rozier told him, "I don't care about that man. It's my son."

"He won't be hurting anybody else," Rariden said Rozier told him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

New juvenile home is definitely needed

In reference to Eric D. Stile's letter in the May 17 Kalamazoo Gazette, I beg to differ with him on his opinion on a new juvenile home.

It's exactly what we need! True, a few of the kids deserve a break, maybe, but that's a mighty few.

By the compassionate tone of his letter, I'm assuming he's never been mugged by some of these young punks, read the newspapers, nor watched CNN or CourtTV.

You'll see it more and more, these behavioral problem punks, shooting up schools, killing their parents, robbing, etc. Is this what you want running the streets? Oh, the poor babies!

Well, not me, partner! Lock the punks up!

Jim A. Bartlett

Kalamazoo

Woman to stand trial on embezzlement charges

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

By LANIA COLEMAN
TIMES NEWS SERVICE

BAD AXE - A Pigeon woman who faces charges she skimmed nearly \$1 million from senior citizens' life insurance policies has a trial date.

Bobbi Jo Fritz, 47, a former secretary and bookkeeper for Armbruster Agency goes on trial Sept. 26, in Huron County Circuit Court on 11 counts of embezzling more than \$20,000.

Fritz is free on a \$50,000 personal recognizance bond.

A conviction could lead to more than 10 years in prison and \$1 million in restitution in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Stephen J. Allen alleges that from October 1996 until August 2005, Fritz funneled \$978,000 from the whole life policies of clients of the former Armbruster Agency, a Farm Bureau Insurance Co. agency in Pigeon, Saginaw News records show.

Fritz worked for 15 years for the agency, which has since closed, News records show.

Farm Bureau Insurance has paid more than \$1 million to cover the losses, plus interest and penalties, to square the victim's accounts, records show.

State police investigated for five months after Fritz's co-workers reported that an adult family member of one of the victims noticed "certain improprieties" in a life insurance policy account, detectives said.

The Saginaw News could not reach Jim Armbruster, who owned the agency, for comment. The News also could not immediately reach Farm Bureau officials for comment.

Bay City Times

May 31, 2006

Child support

Voice: Dana Wenglikowski, Essexville

This is in regard to the child support letter (People's Forum, April 10).

I am very disappointed and feel hurt for your unborn child. You have condemned this child to a life of starving for acceptance and love. They will act this out later in drugs, sex, crime and who knows what else.

Let's hope that when this "unwanted child" that you are "keeping" never finds your article 15 years down the line to read that his/her mother told the world that he/she was "unwanted." That will be devastating for a teen to find out that their birth was regretted. You kept them because you felt like you had to.

Let me ask, how would you feel if you parents told you that you were "unwanted" but they kept you for religious reasons only? Or, maybe that's it. Have you felt unloved and you looked for love through boyfriends and sex? Religion places a value on human life and promotes love, nurturing and caring. It is inevitable that your child will know your true feelings long before the teen years through your actions, or lack of actions.

We have enough children running around with uncaring parents.

I am a single mother and I am only 24. My child was the best thing that could ever have happened to me. It has made me more responsible and mature in life. I now realize what is important and what is not. I am going through court for child support right now. Parents who are out of the picture have it easy. They can come and go when they want. Remember, it's the community's tax money that cares for these so called "unwanted children."

Please think about all the children out there that have no one to care for them. Children are special and need special people in their lives.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

News Release

Contact: Stepheni Schlinker or Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394

Over \$12 Million Waiting To Be Claimed by Child Support Recipients

May 31, 2006

LANSING – The Department of Human Services' Office of Child Support has updated the child support section of the DHS Web site, www.michigan.gov/dhs, to allow child support customers to search for unclaimed funds. These funds accumulate when customers do not keep their address updated or they receive a check that they do not cash. Over \$12 million is waiting to be claimed.

"Our priority is getting child support to families," said Office of Child Support Director Marilyn Stephen. "That becomes a challenge when the parties involved in a case don't update addresses or don't cash checks that are sent to them. Child support workers use many different techniques to locate parents who are owed money, but with this online search tool, customers have a fast and easy way to search for funds themselves, 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

The public can go to the child support section of the Web site and click on "search for unclaimed funds." The search requires a full name and the last four digits of the individual's social security number. The page also provides a link to the change of information form so that parents can forward address changes to their Friend of the Court.

"Anyone owed support should make sure that we have a current address. Our enforcement efforts are ongoing even when time has elapsed since the last payment," said Stephen. "In some cases over \$10,000 has accumulated. We devote staff to finding these individuals and they are understandably elated to hear from us, but we want to reach more parents. Many have moved to other states so getting the word out as widely as possible is important."

Individuals who may have unclaimed funds after conducting the search are directed to call the Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU) so that identity verifications can be completed.

"This is part of our ongoing effort to use technology to serve the public more effectively and efficiently," said Marianne Udow, Director of the Department of Human Services. "We look forward to the additional opportunities for innovation that the Michigan child support enforcement computer system brings."

The child support program in Michigan distributes approximately \$1.4 billion annually, including about \$400 million in past due support. The state ranks fourth highest nationally in support collected and third highest in arrears collected.

For more information on the child support program go to the child support section of:
www.michigan.gov/dhs